

JOHN ASHCROFT

Governor

FREDERICK A. BRUNNER

Director



STATE OF MISSOURI

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102
314-751-3241

SITE: BIG RIVER MINE
ID#: MOD981126899
BREAK: 17.9
OTHER: AR

Division of Energy
Division of Environmental Quality
Division of Geology and Land Survey
Division of Management Services
Division of Parks and
Historic Preservation

October 15, 1985

Mr. Robert L. Morby
United States Environmental
Protection Agency
Region VII
726 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66101

Dear Mr. Morby:

On October 1, 1985, I had the pleasure of participating in the Desloge Mine Tailings Task Force meeting. It became apparent that the St. Francois County Court, the St. Francois Landfill Authority, and St. Joe Minerals Corporation were struggling to solve a most difficult problem relating to the handling of solid waste and mine tailings located in a large oxbow of Big River in St. Francois County, Missouri.

The State of Missouri through the Department of Natural Resources, upon request, has taken a leadership role in encouraging the above to control potential environmental degradation. James Burris of the Poplar Bluff Regional Office has advised me that through his communication with you, the Environmental Protection Agency will hold in abeyance any activity in this problem area so long as viable progress toward solving the problem is being made.

I am pleased to inform you that the meeting was productive. Specific work assignments were delegated and we have established November 4, 1985, as the next scheduled meeting date for the task force. The respective parties have been charged with responsibilities for providing dates to complete engineering, legal, and managerial milestones for securing the tailings site and specifying uses for the land occupied by the tailings.

We are looking forward to your comments and suggestions relative to the task force's activity, and will provide a report with appropriate schedules as a product of the work activities.

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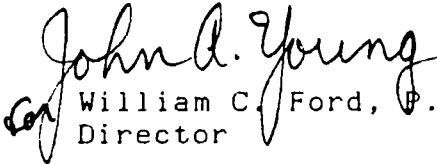
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Mr. Robert L. Morby
October 15, 1985
Page Two

Should you have any questions, please contact James Burris of our Poplar Bluff Regional Office.

Sincerely,

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY


William C. Ford, P.E.,
Director

WCF:jbl

cc: Mr. Gayle Blackwell, St. Francois County Environmental Corp.
Mr. Gary Welch, Vice President, Environmental Affairs
Mr. James Burris, Poplar Bluff Regional Office
The Honorable Richard Caster, Presiding Commissioner